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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 and 28-30 are presented for examination. Claims 3-6, 8-10, 16-19, 21-23, 25 and 28-30 have been amended to remove improper multiple dependencies and correct other informalities. Claims 26, 27 and 31-33 have been cancelled without prejudice. Favorable consideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE TO THE CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 or 2 in which the amount of fat in the composition is from about 5% to about 20%, [preferably from about 8% to about 17%,] by weight of the composition.

4. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding] claim 1 or 2 in which the amount of crude fibre in the composition is from about 3.5% to about 35%, [preferably from about 10% to about 25%,] by weight of the composition.

5. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding] claim 1 or 2 in which the amount of neutral detergent fibre in the composition is from about 15% to about 70%, [preferably from about 25% to about 50%,] by weight of the composition.

6. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding] claim 1 or 2 in which at least some of the fibre is chopped fibre.

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8. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding] claim 1 or 2 in which the starch content of the composition is [low, preferably] below about 20% by weight of the composition.

9. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding] claim 1 or 2 in which the antacid inhibits secretion of acid in the stomach.

10. (Amended) A composition according to claim 9 in which the antacid is a proton pump inhibitor [such as omeprazole,] or a histamine type-2 antagonist.

16. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 11 to 14] claims 11, 12 or 13 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled from birth.

17. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 11 to 16] claims 11, 12 or 13 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled by inhibiting secretion of acid in the stomach of the animal.

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 17 in which the acid secretion is inhibited by administering a proton pump inhibitor[, such as omeprazole,] or a histamine type-2 antagonist to the animal.

19. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 11 to 18] claims 11, 12 or 13 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled by administering a composition [according to any of claims 1 to 10] comprising fat, fibre and optionally a stomach antacid to the animal.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 19 [or 20] in which the composition is included in the diet of the animal's mother when she is lactating.

22. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 19 to 21] claim 19 in which the composition is included in feed and [the] said feed is fed to the animal as it is being weaned.

23. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 11 to 22] claims 11, 12 or 13 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled shortly before and/or during and/or following weaning, ingestion of a high grain diet, or a period of extended fasting by the animal.

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 24 in which ulcer formation is prevented or reduced, or ulcers are treated, by administering a composition [according to any of claims 1 to 10] comprising fat, fibre and optionally a stomach antacid to the animal.

28. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 11 to 25 or use according to claim 26 or 27] claims 11, 12 or 13 in which the animal is an *equidae*, a non-ruminant omnivore, or a non-ruminant herbivore.

29. (Amended) A method [or use] according to claim 28 in which the animal is a horse.

30. (Amended) A method [or use] according to claim 29 in which the stereotypy is crib-biting.